

## NORFOLK VISITED BY FIRE FIEND

The Evening Dispatch Building Partially Destroyed.

THE MACHINERY ESCAPES

Large Candy Factory and Other Property Burned, Worth Perhaps Fifty Thousand Dollars—Large Quantity of Peanuts Roasted.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)  
NORFOLK, VA., May 1.—Officer Wolf discovered flames issuing from the second story front windows of the Evening Dispatch Building at about 6 o'clock this morning, which finally consumed that building, with its stock, Boston and Lowman's Peanut Factory and McDonald's Virginia Cafe, adjoining. The fire then spread through to the Dispatch office, on Roanoke Avenue, eating off the roof and two upper floors, including the editorial rooms, but leaving the battery of linotype machines on the second floor from practically unharmed.

On the ground floor the flames swept over the press, melting the composition ink rollers to death and burning the multitudinous tapes on the complex machine, but inflicting it little if any otherwise.

**NEW WATER TOWER.**  
Things were floating around in the office for hours after the fire was discovered, and the deluge came from the new water tower, first used to-day, and water leaked through the remnant of ceiling over everything in sight.

About a carload of great rolls of paper, weighing 3,000 pounds each, stood in the press room under the water fall and in the slough on the floor. Experts said that the dampening will cause this paper to curl on the edges, and the loss is irreparable on the press. That will cost the insurance companies about \$1,000.

**DISPATCH INSURANCE.**  
There was \$100,000 insurance on the Dispatch plant, and this, Mr. Thompson thinks, will cover the loss. The press and the machinery gone to the Dispatch would have gone to the bad probably not \$10,000. Nobody was ever known to have such good luck, as all may see who saw the machines and press almost unharmed in a spot where was a wilderness of water and flame.

The Mergenthalers, which in printing offices are accredited to have human intelligence, rest in the building, and the Dispatch is now printing the news. Next the Dispatch is Mr. Hoffmann's cigar factory, which was considerably damaged by water and but little by fire.

**OTHER BUILDINGS ATTACKED.**  
After the fire started sparks fired the fine buildings of Messrs. George Sart & Sons, seedmen, and H. G. Williams & Co., wholesale liquor. Men on the roofs, however, extinguished these fires promptly.

Mr. L. P. Roberts was late standing in his wholesale grocery store talking with an insurance man, who said you are all right, I see. He was answered by several tons of brick wall from the building, which fell upon the Roberts building amidst, fell to the floor, wrecking the Roberts building and most of the stock.

They say that Mr. Roberts turned to the agent and coolly said: "You can take it, it's yours; I don't want it."

Mr. Roberts owned the building.

**SIXTY THOUSAND.**  
Mr. Arthur C. Humphreys, representing several insurance companies interested, said he thought the total loss would, perhaps, reach \$60,000; mainly covered by the insurance.

The buildings occupied by the Virginia Candy Company and the Virginia Cafe were owned by Mrs. Richard H. Jones. The Selden estate owns the Old Dominion Paper Company building. This building and the stock therein escaped injury.

The Dispatch building belonged to Captain John T. Koch.

C. Koch owned the building adjoining Mrs. Jones' property. This was also occupied by the Virginia Cafe, the owner of which, Mr. McDonald, said the loss is \$2,500, with no insurance.

**POWDER REMOVED.**  
Five hundred pounds of case powder stored back of the Virginia Candy Company, was gotten out during the fire. It had exploded the section about would probably have suffered greatly. Mr. Koch said his loss is about \$3,000, with \$4,000 insurance.

Mr. W. H. Nelson's head was severely cut by the falling of a beam of a ladder, but he, a volunteer fireman, gamely returned to fight the fire after his hurt was dressed.

The department, because of a shortage of men, were compelled to leave the big engine, Thomas Kevill, in its house.

**TO BE REBUILT.**  
The burned district will be rebuilt, it is stated, and better buildings than before stood will be erected.

The Dispatch is a game bird and crowded as usual this afternoon.

First, filled with the generous printing-house spirit, printed its scorched neighbor.

Some seventy-five girls work in the candy factory, but, fortunately, these had not come down when the fire started. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Some 500 bags of especially fine peanuts were in the factory cellar, and these, as they were roasted, filled the air for squares with the appetizing scent of peanuts.

**FIRES IN NEW KENT.**

Peter Place Loses His Dwelling, Kitchen and Barn—Early Crops.

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ROXBURY, VA., May 1.—Great damage has been done by late rain, by the destruction of the fire, which has carried everything before them and left only blackness in their wake. Up to Monday night no rain had fallen for two weeks and everything was as dry as tinder. Thousands of cords of wood have been stored in the hands of the fire, and the fire will be enormous.

One of the saddest features of the fire was that which occurred last Saturday when Mr. Peter Place had his dwelling, kitchen, barn and all of his furniture destroyed. Mr. Place is a prosperous young farmer living near Quinton. He has a large family, and his loss is estimated at \$2,500, with no insurance, or very little.

Plenty of rain has now fallen, and the warm sun makes all things push ahead, and from present indications this is going to be a fine spring for early trucks.

**WILL LEAVE IT TO WATSON.**

His Action Will Satisfy Nottoway Folks.

Convictions in the Court.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)  
NOTTOWAY, C. H., VA., May 1.—There was a large attendance at County Court to-day, but no meeting was held for the purpose of taking action with reference to the submission or proclamation of the Constitution. The court was crowded with many leading citizens, and while there was some difference of opinion amongst them as to whether the Constitution should be submitted or proclaimed, they were of the opinion that it is best to leave this matter in the hands of the people.

Walter A. Watson, their delegate, whose

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There has been a good deal of talk recently in the Virginia Republican circles in Washington on the subject of the coming Congressional campaign in Virginia, and the names of the probable candidates of the Republican party have been mentioned.

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In the Fifth Beverly Davis, at present a member of the House, is expected to be elected from Rocky Mount, will come out against Swanson. The Republicans place great hopes upon carrying the Fifth. They say it is a strong Republican district and Davis' personality will be a potent factor in the race. Swanson doesn't seem much troubled at the outlook, and the Democrats who have heard of the intentions of the Republicans to put Davis in the field against Swanson display a marked lack of uneasiness.

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